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The Honorable Donna Shalala
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20201

September 23, 2000

Dear Secretary Shalala:

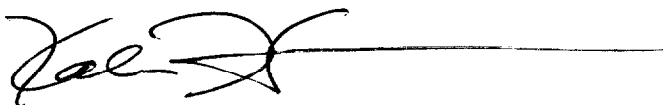
I am writing out of a concern that the FDA is considering weakening labeling requirements so that I will not be able to know whether the food I eat has been treated with radiation.

As I'm sure you know, food products undergo chemical changes after exposure to radioactive isotopes. Both cosmetic and possible nutritional changes in foods are clearly such that consumers have a right to know whether they have taken place, through disclosure that the food had been irradiated on a prominent place on the package. And for irradiated food that is not packaged, there should be a requirement that it be accompanied by a poster or sign in plain view of where it is displayed for sale, indicating that fact. Only clear, honest, and permanent labeling is acceptable for irradiated foods.

Please, please use the power of your office to defend the consumer's right to know in this important area, so that we can make informed decisions about what our families and we will eat.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,



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